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Shencotta taluk and that it was not always due to want of rain, but to the want of capacity of the tanks, the dependence of tank and channel-fed lands on wild streams for the supply of water, and the want of one or more reservoirs to supplement the water in the tanks. He suggested that the Tank Restoration Party should be ordered or a special officer appointed to investigate the irrigation sources and find out a big reservoir to supplement the tanks for all the *pakuthies* in common or as many small reservoirs as might be necessary to serve the whole taluk. He mentioned, among the places available for reservoirs, the north-east of Achanputhur in the Atchancoil river, Muriappanchan, Palaruvy and the Thagaravootty valley and its streams. Till the water-supply was ensured, fallow remissions should be freely granted to the ryots.

(2) He next referred to the want of roads for agricultural traffic and suggested that the Government should start the construction of the much-needed roads on recovering *kudipathi* from the ryots or even the whole cost in instalments.

(3) He suggested for Shencotta the introduction of standard measures (including the Madras marakals) and weights now in use in the taluk. Parah and edangali were of no use in the taluk.

(4) Facilities should be afforded for the growth of green manure and fodder in private lands, by offering partial remission of tax wherever they were so grown. Permission should also be granted to cultivate them on Sirkar lands

(5) He said that the term *manipidi* was not properly construed by the local officers and the ryots did not get proper remission of tax in consequence. According to him, only those lands the one-half yield of which minus the seed and cost of harvesting was equal to or more than the tax for the crop, should be declared *manipidi*, and therefore not eligible for remission. Similarly, remission should be allowed on lands whose crops were protected by water from private wells or which were destroyed by wild animals.

(6) Lands should be freely registered for communal purposes in the names of applicants.

(7) An agricultural farm and a manure depot should be established at Shencotta

(8) Agricultural loans for improvement works should be granted to the ryots through the Agricultural Department.

(9) The Land Records Maintenance rules required modification so as to dispense with the necessity for demarcating the sub-numbers and letters in one holding with separate stones.

(10) Rewards should be offered for killing crop-destructive animals.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

58. Agricultural needs of the Changanacherry taluk.

Mr. K. Krishna Pillai (Member, Changanacherry taluk) explained the advantages that would accrue to the agricul-

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turists of the taluk if the Kuttipuzha canal were improved by deepening it ten feet over a distance of about a furlong. Owing to the present condition of the canal, about 20,000 parahs of paddy lands were under water from Edavam to Vrischikam ; and if the portion referred to were excavated, all those fields would be saved from floods and the paddy fields on the immediate west of it would also become fertile.

The Member next suggested that Section 23 of the Irrigation Regulation be amended so as to vest in the Tahsildar the power now conferred on the Division Peishkar of starting action in cases of failure of the ryots to contribute cost or labour for irrigation works to be done by joint labour. He said that the amendment was necessary to ensure prompt action being taken in such cases.

Dewan's reply.—The papers about the improvement of the Kuttipuzha canal will be looked into. The suggestion of the Member for amending the Irrigation Regulation is noted.

59. The agricultural difficulties of the Kartikappalli taluk.

Mr. V. Narayanan Unnithan (Member, Kartikappalli taluk) thanked the Dewan warmly, on behalf of the Nair population of the Kartikappalli taluk, for passing the Nair Regulation.

Coming to the subject, he observed that Kartikappalli was a small yet densely peopled taluk. The people of the taluk were mainly agriculturists. More than 50 per cent of the total area of the taluk was under paddy cultivation. Owing to the rapid increase in the population without a corresponding increase in the cultivable lands, the supply of paddy from the taluk did not meet the requirements of the people. Further, the antiquated methods of cultivation and the irregular rains combined to make the failure of crops more regular. The Government were refusing to extend the privilege of remission of land-tax when cultivation failed, already granted to the ryots of South Travancore, to the ryots of North and Central Travancore. The soil was porous and hence there was no facility for retaining water in the tanks. The taluk was situated inland and had therefore to depend upon rain for cultivation. Also, the soil was not fertile. The yield depended entirely upon the application of manure. With the extreme want of communications either by land or by water and with the increase also in the wages of labour, the cost of procuring manure from the neighbouring taluks had considerably increased. Next to paddy, the staple produce of the taluk was cocoanut. He regretted to mention that the cocoanut palms were being infected with some disease. The occasional visits of the Director of Agriculture would have rendered much help to the ryots of the taluk in that respect, but the Director was sorely neglecting the interests of the taluk and had not visited it even once. To improve the present miserable condition of agriculture in the taluk, the Member suggested the following measures :—

(1) A model agricultural and experimental farm should be opened at Haripad, where seeds of different varieties suited to local conditions might be experimented with. Replying to the Dewan, he said that he was ready and willing to place at the disposal of the Director sufficient lands for purposes of experimental cultivation and he was sure that

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